



1986 Round 21 Saturday 26th July Lidcombe Oval



St George 18

Glenn BURGESS
 Ricky WALFORD
 Chris JOHNS
 Brian JOHNSTON
 Steve MORRIS
 Steve LINNANE
 Perry HADDOCK
 Geoff SELBY
 John FIFITA
 Steve FUNNELL
 Craig YOUNG (c)
 Chris GUIDER
 Chris WALSH
 Billy NOKE
 Graeme WYNN

def.

Western Suburbs 14

Rod PETHYBRIDGE
 Allen GEELAN
 Ian NADEN
 Trevor COGGER
 Des DRUMMOND
 Brett CLARK
 Craig NEIL
 Ian SCHUBERT (c)
 John ELIAS
 John BILBIJA
 Lee CROOKS
 Alan FALLAH
 Garry WEBSTER
 Paul SHEAHAN
 Greg FALKNER
 Wilfred WILLIAMS
 Grant FYVIE



Tries Brian JOHNSTON
 Perry HADDOCK

Ian SCHUBERT
 John ELIAS

Goals Ricky WALFORD (5)

Ian SCHUBERT (3)

Match Description

Western Suburbs: Full-back: R Pethybridge; three-quarters: A Geelan, T Cogger, I Naden, D Drummond; five-eighth: B Clark; half: C Neil; forwards: I Schubert (c), J Bilbija, J Elias, L Crooks, A Fallah, G Webster

St George: Full-back: G Burgess; three-quarters: R Walford, C Johns, B Johnston, S Morris; five-eighth: S Linnane; half: P Haddock; forwards: G Selby, S Funnell, J Fifita, C Young (c), C Guider, C Walsh **Referee: G O'Donnell (The Daily Mirror 28th July 1986)**

St George are still in the battle for the semi-finals following their 18-14 win over Western Suburbs at Lidcombe Oval yesterday. But at one stage, when Wests were leading 12-2 and Saints were playing badly, the Winfield semis seemed to be a forlorn dream. What Saints' coach Roy Masters has been looking for in his team emerged in the last 50 minutes. The Dragons courageously fought their way back into the match to score 16 points and take an 18-12 lead after 12 minutes of the second half. "I told the players it did not worry me if they won, lost or drew the game as long as they played football for 80 minutes," Masters said. "Perhaps it was that or it may have been the fact they will all be at my home for a barbecue on Sunday and they did not want to see me wandering around with a long face." The return to form of Glenn Burgess and Steve Linnane pleased Masters while he heaped praise on Geoff Selby's defence. And props Craig Young and Steve Walsh topped the tackle count. On the debit side for Saints was 30 minutes of dreadful football when their attack lacked any purpose and on one occasion there was no dummy half for a play-the-ball and it was swooped on by Wests. Masters, like other coaches, is finding the crackdown on the use of runners as something as a hindrance. There were times yesterday when he could see opportunities especially out wide but could not get the message through. "I can't cope under this present system," Masters said. Under the new edict, the runners can only go on the field when there is a player injured or after a try is scored. Wests' coach Steve Ghosn could not help thinking about the match that got away after leading 12-2. Poor handling, turning the ball the wrong way and one-out play contributed to their downfall. The killer as far as Wests were concerned came shortly after half-time when play swept downfield but the chance was lost through a great tackle by Glen Burgess on Rod Pethybridge. One turning point of the match for the Magpies came in the first half when their resolute hooker, Alan Fallah had to be replaced with a cut head and lip. Fallah's tight defence around the rucks was badly missed and probably wasn't a coincidence that Saints started to pick up a little momentum when Fallah went off. Five goals from as many attempts by Saints' winger Rick Walford meant the points scoring difference after both teams finished with two tries. Saints' nuggety little hooker, Chris Guider, had a particularly strong game. For Wests, John Elias played well while Ian Schubert is playing as well as he ever did. **(The Sun-Herald 27th July 1986)**

Notes: Wests charged to a 12-2 early lead and looked like running away with the game but some poor handling let them down. Des Drummond dropped a pass which looked like a certain try in the second half which would have sealed the game. The replacement of Alan Fallah was also a factor, missing his in-close tackling. Ian Schubert was again clearly Wests' best.